ARTICLES
TO BE ENQVIRED
OF IN THE VISITATI-
on of the Right Reuerend Father,
IOHN, by the Prouidence of God,
Bishop of *Worcester*.

Iunii nono

In the yeere of our Lord God,

1632.

Et ministri solemniter iurati ad respondendum in Visitatione sua Quinti Die

Ad quem locum

LONDON,
Printed for *Iohn Grismond*,
1632.

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Ti minister / to learning for and ſtrait wnde
ni to agree in Diuinity for the ſame
without the ſouth of

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1632.

THe Miniſter and Church-wardens are to call vnto them the Neighbours of the Pariſh, and out of them to make choyce (accor ing to the cuſtome of the place) of two of the diſcreeteſt Pariſh oners to be Side-men; and they altogether are to reade ouer theſe Articles diuers times.

Then, after they haue duly conſidered of them, they are to write their anſwere or preſentment vnto euery Article particularly, and truely, according to their conſciences.

Laſtly, they are all of them to bring their preſentments to the Viſitation, and there the Church-wardens and Side-men vpon their oathes; but the Miniſter according to the Canon in that behalfe; are to deliuer them vp vnder their hands.

The Oath miniſtred to the Church-wardens *and Sworne-men.*

YOu ſhall ſweare, that all affection, fauour, hatred, hope of reward and gaine, or feare of diſpleaſure or malice ſet aſide: You ſhall vpon due conſideration of the Articles giuen you in charge, preſent all and euery ſuch perſon of, or within your Pariſh, as hath committed any offence or fault; or made any default mentioned in theſe, or any of theſe Articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected and defamed of any ſuch offence, fault or default, wherein you ſhall deliuer vprightly, and according to truth; neither of malice preſenting any contrary to truth, nor of corrupt affection ſparing to preſent any, and ſo conceale the truth: Hauing in this action, God before your eyes, with an earneſt zeale to maintaine truth, and to ſuppreſſe vice: So helpe you God, and the Contents of this Booke.

God ſaue the King.

Articles

WHether is your Church and Chancell in all respects well and sufficiently repaired, and kept swéet and cleane, if not, in whose default? Haue you therein the ten Commandements, the Articles of the Beliefe, and other godly sentences fairely written: the Bible of the largest volume, the Bookes of Common prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, the booke intituled God and the King, and all other bookes requisite: a séemely Pulpit, a conuenient seat for the Minister at prayers, a large and comely Surplesse, whole and vntorne?

2 Haue you in your Church a strong Chest for Almes, with a hole in the top, and thrée lockes and keyes thereto: Is the money therein put, imployed to the vse of the poore?

3 Haue you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burials, in a booke of Parchment duely kept in a Chest with thrée locks and keyes?

4 Hath any man pulled downe or vncouered, or suffered to decay any Parsonage or Vicarage houses, or any Church, Chancell, Chappell, Vestry, or Church houses, in part or in all, or imployed them, or any of them to any prophane vses?

5 Whether is your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers house, or any part thereof conuerted, made, vsed, or imployed, to or for any common passage, entry, thorow fare, or common way for people, or cattell vsually to passe thorow, forth of the Churchyard into or vnto any Alehouse, Tipling, or victualling house, common Inne or Wine-Tauerne. And by whom, and by whose sufferance and permission, and how long hath the same béen so made, enioyned, vsed, imployed, or rather misused and misimployed as aforesaid?

6 Whether are the pales, fences, enclosures, and markes of ancient bounds and limits of your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers houses, or of the courts, entries, gardens, backsides, or other appurtenances belonging to the same, or any part thereof, remoued or altered, or taken away from their ancient places, bounds, and limits thereof, and laid and vsed to and with any victualling-house, common Inne, or Wine-Tauerne? And by whom when, and by whose sufferance, and how long time hath the same bene so done and suffered? And whether by the continuance of the vse of the premises as aforesaid, may not the same in short time grow out of knowledge, and by some prescription to become preiudiciall to the Church or succéeding Incumbent thereof?

7 Are

7 Are your Bels, Bell ropes, and Clocke in good repaire, and well ordered? Is your Churchyard well fenced and decently kept? Is it not prophaned with fighting, brawling, chiding, gaming, dancing, playing, or with vnlawfull cattell, or otherwise, and how, and by whom, and by whose default?

Ministers and Curates.

8 Doth your Minister reade or say the whole diuine Seruice euery Sunday and Holy-day, and administer the holy Sacraments according to the booke of Common Prayer. Is your Minister a licenced Preacher, doth he diligently preach sound doctrine, and for matters of gouernement seriously teach and maintaine the Kings supremacy vnder God within his Maiesties dominions ouer all persons, and in all causes as well Ecclesiasticall as Ciuill, and the abolishing of all forraigne power?

9 Hath your Minister more Benefices than one, if two, or more, doth he reside vpon one of them himselfe, and maintaine a licenced Preacher, on the other? If he haue but one, is he resident and dwelling thereupon, is he painefull in his vocation, of sober and good conuersation, and giuen to hospitality?

10 Doth your Minister vse decencie of Apparell as well in the Church as elsewhere. And in the time of Diuine Prayers and administration of the Sacraments, doth he vse to weare the Surplesse? and if he be a Graduate, such a Hood as is agreeable to his calling?

11 Is your Minister a peace-maker, and no sower of discord, or is he suspected, famed or noted of any notorious crime, or giueth he any ill example, in his cariage or demeanour?

12 Doth any preach in your Parish, that refuseth to conforme himselfe to the lawes, ordinances, and rites of the Church of England?

13 Hath your Minister a Curate, and how is he licenced? doth he serue two Cures, and doth he giue notice of the fasting dayes and Holy-dayes commanded and allowed? and amongst others of the fifth of Nouember?

14 If your Minister be not a Preacher allowed, doth he procure monethly Sermons? and when there is no Sermon, doth hee reade an Homily, doth he take vpon him to expound any text of Scriptures?

15 What Preachers haue come from any other place, and Preach in your Parish: haue you their names written in a booke kept for that purpose? hath such a Preacher subscribed his name thereto, and set down the day when he preached, and by whom licenced?

16 Hath your Minister obtained his Benefice by any Symoniacall compact, either directly, or indirectly?

17 Hath

17 Hath any of your parish, or of any other parish, vnreuerently vsed your Minister, laid violent hands on him, or disgraced his office and function, by word, or deede?

Diuine Seruice.

18 Is diuine Seruice in due time on Sundayes, Holydayes, & their Eeues, and at other times appointed, reuerently said or sung in your Church or Chappell, with the Letany on Wednesdayes and Fridayes, and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript forme of Common prayer in the Communion booke?

19 Whether doth any not being licenced (or any not ordered, at least for a Deacon) say Common prayer openly in your Church or Chappell?

20 Do any men, young or old, vse to weare their hats in the Church or Chappell in time of diuine Seruice, or are there any that behaue themselues disorderly in the Church, Chappell, or Churchyard, or any disturbers of diuine Seruice or Sermons?

21 Whether doe any Victualers (or others in your Parish) suffer any drinking or gaming in their houses on Sundayes or Holydayes, especially in time of diuine Seruice or Sermons?

22 Whether any in your parish, vpon Sabboth dayes or Holydayes, doe vse their Trade, or doe any other worke or labour, as Brewing, Baking, Washing, Barbing, or such like, or doe any Mercers, Drapers, Shoomakers, Butchers, or others whatsoeuer, open their shops for sale of Wares vpon those dayes, or doe hedge, ditch, digge, carry, or draw burthens by themselues, their seruants, horses, or other cattell whatsoeuer on such dayes? And is the fifth day of November obserued, according as is ordained in that behalfe?

The holy Communion.

23 Haue you a decent Communion Table on a frame, with a seemly carpet and a cloth of Linnen, a Communion cup and couer of siluer, a faire Flagon of pewter or purer mettall for the Wine, a plate for the Bread, and a Towell to lay ouer it?

24 Whether is there any in your parish, which being full sixteene yeeres of age and vpward, hath not receiued the holy Communion three seuerall times in the yeere past at least, in his or her parish Church, whereof Easter to be one of the three times?

25 Doth your Minister instruct or examine his Parishioners concerning the Sacraments at conuenient times before hee administer the Communion? And doth he admit any thereto that cannot say at least the Lords Prayer, the Articles of the Christian Faith, and the ten Commandements?

26 Is your Communion ministred with Bread and Wine, consecrated in such order, as in the booke of Common prayer is appointed? And doth your Minister deliuer both kindes to euery seuerall Communicant, with the blessing prescribed in the booke of Common prayer?

27 Doth any receiue the holy Communion either sitting, standing, or otherwise than knéeling as is prescribed in the booke of common prayer? or doe any refuse to receiue the same knéeling: and doth your Minister admit any to receiue the Communion, otherwise than knéeling?

28 Doth your Minister admit any notorious offenders, or any Schismaticks to the holy Communion, before due penance enioyned by the Ordinary be duly performed by them, or doth he admit any notoriously knowne to be out of charity?

29 Whether doth your Minister appoint and obserue so many Communions in one yéere, as that the Parishioners may conuenently receiue all of them thrée seuerall times in the yéere. And doth he vse to giue publique notice thereof in the Church, the Sabbath day next going before euery such Communions, that the Parishioners may prepare themselues to be partakers thereof?

Baptisme.

30 Haue you in your Church a conuenient Font of stone, well kept and couered, standing in the ancient place: doth your Minister Baptize therein, or in any Bason, or other thing, or with any other ceremonies than such as are allowed in the booke of common prayer: or doth hée omit, neglect, or not vse all the ceremonies therein prescribed, and doth hée vse the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme?

31 Doth your Minister refuse to Baptize any children of Christian Parents that are brought to the Church vnbaptized?

32 Are Parents vrged to be present at the baptizing of their children: or be any admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers, that haue not receiued the holy Communion: or doe any Parents refuse to haue their children signed with the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme.

33 Haue any children that were borne in your Parish béene caried out of the Parish to be baptized elsewhere: or haue any not béen baptized all, or in places, or by parties vnknowne.

34 Whether hath your Minister refused, deferred, or delayed to minister vnto, and to christen any childe being in weaknesse, or in danger of death being thereunto required, by reason whereof such a childe hath (through his negligence, or by his default) died vnbaptized.

Catechisme.

35 Doth your Minister or his Curate, daly Catechize according to the late Canons euery Sunday, such children and seruants of both sexes as are of conuenient age, or at least so many of them by course, as the time will serue?

56 Doe Parents and Housholders bring, or send their children and seruants to the Church euery Sunday duly to be catechized, according as the Canons require, and who are negligent therein?

Matrimonie.

37 Whether is Matrimony solemnized in your Church or Chappell, according to the booke of Common Prayer?

38 Haue you in your Church a Table of the degrées of Mariage? are any maried within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity therein forbidden: or doe any children vnder the age of twenty one yeeres, contract themselues, or marrie without consent of their Parents or Guardians?

39 Haue any beene married without the Banes thrice asked in the Church three seuerall Sundayes or Holy-dayes (vnlesse by Licence of the Ordinary granted vnder seale) or at any time of the day, than betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the fore-noone, or at any time prohibited, that is to say, from Aduent Sunday to the Octaues of Epiphanie, from Septuagesima Sunday, to the Octaues of Easter, from Rogation Sunday, to Trinity Sunday?

40 Haue any that dwell in your Parish, beene married in any other Parish, or any of another Parish been married in your Parish? Or haue any been married priuately out of the Church or face of the Congregation: when, where, by whom, and who were present at such marriages?

41 Haue any women not well knowne to be married, beene deliuered of any childe in your Parish, and in whose house? Or hath any woman in your Parish beene carnally knowne, or begotten with childe before marriage, and by whom?

42 Haue any forsaken their Wiues or husbands, and married others? Haue any married againe after they haue beene diuorced: Or doe any which haue beene diuorced, keepe company still together?

43 Doe any married couples liue asunder and not together, and doe either of them keepe in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the rising of suspition or fame of incontinency?

44 Hath any in your Parish, for money or reward, married any Woman that committed Fornication or Adulterie with another man? Or hath any vnmarried Woman begotten with childe, gone out of your Parish before she hath done penance enioyned by the Ordinarie, where

was the or is she receiued or harbored, at whose charge, and who conueyed her away?

Visitation of the sick.

42 Doth your Minister or Curate visite the sicke, doth he admonish them to repentance, comfort the penitent, and exhort them to charitable Almes-deeds?

Buriall of the dead.

45 Are your dead buried according to the forme of buriall set downe in the Booke of Common prayer: or haue any bene buried secretly or in the night, who, and by whom, and who were present thereat?

47 Doe the Executors or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in Church or Chancell, repaire againe the pauement, and giue any thing to the Church, or in whose default is the same neglected and not repaired?

Churching of women.

48 Doth any woman refuse to giue God thanks openly in the Church, or (as we terme it) to be churched at conuenient times after Childbirth, or doth any Minister refuse to church them, or church them any otherwise then is prescribed in the booke of Common prayer?

49 Hath any woman vnlawfully begotten with child, bin admitted to publique thanksgiuing in the Church, before shee hath performed such penance as was enioyned her by the Ordinary, or at least bin Churched in a white sheet, and confessed her fault penitently before sufficient witnesses, and vndertaken to stand to the censure of her Ordinary for her said offence?

Parish Clearks.

50 Haue you a Parish Clearke chosen by the Minister, is he of honest conuersation, hath he a competent skill, in reading, writing, and singing? And doth any with-hold or detaine his Wages or duties from him?

Scoolemasters.

51 Haue you any Schoole-houle, and how is it repaired? And haue you any Schoolemaster in your Parish that teacheth publikely, or priuately, is he lawfully licenced? doth hee come duely to the Church and receiue the holy Communion? doth he instruct his Schollers in the Catechisme allowed, and in the booke intituled God and the King? causeth hee them to repaire to diuine Prayers in the Church, and to heare and note Sermons? Teacheth he any other Grammar than that which is allowed

52 Is any Schoolemaster knowne or suspected publiquely or priuately to reade to his Schollers, or suffer them to reade any booke that may confirme them in Popery, superstition, or disobedience to the Kings

Maiestie,

Maieſtie, or to his lawes Eccleſiaſticall or ciuill, & how many either men or women, doe teach children in your Pariſh, and what be their names?

Schiſmaticks and Recuſants of all ſorts.

53 Doe you know any that teach or maintaine any doctrine contrary to the Articles agreed vpon in the conuocation, Anno Dom. 1562.

54 Doth any preach, miniſter the Communion, baptize children, or church women in priuate houſes, or other where then in the Church, except it be in caſes of neceſſity?

55 Know you any that abſent themſelues from the Church negligently, or wilfully, how long haue they ſo done? And of them that are abſent without a ſufficient and lawfull cauſe, is the forfeiture of twelue pence taken euery Sunday, and conuerted to the vſe of the poore, according to the Statute, Eliza. 1.

56 In your Pariſh where there is a Preacher, doe any vſe to abſent themſelues from his Sermon, and reſort to any other?

57 Know you any that forbeare to participate with the Church of England in prayer, or Sacraments, either denying the Church to be Apoſtolicall, or condemning the ceremonies thereof as ſuperſtitious?

58 Haue you in your pariſh any Popiſh Recuſants, and halfe Papiſts that come to the Church, and receiue not the Communion, any Church Papiſts that come and receiue themſelues, but either perſwade others, or maintaine their wiues, children, family, or friends, not to come?

59 Doth any Seminary Prieſt or Jeſuite, reſort to any place within this Dioceſſe, or ſuſpect you any ſuch: Or doe you know any that reſort to any popiſh Prieſt or Jeſuite?

60 Know you any that by writing, talke, or argument, impugne the Kings Supremacie, or any that haue kept in their cuſtody, that ſell, diſperſe, carry, or deliuer vnto others any vnlawfull Bookes againſt the Religion and gouernment eſtabliſhed, or in defence of any forraigne power, or domeſticall Conſiſtory?

Excommunicated perſons.

61 Are all excommunicated perſons kept out of the Church from diuine prayers, and receiuing the holy Communion, vntill they be lawfully abſolued: And are there any in your pariſh which haue ſtode excommunicated forty dayes and vpwards, are ſuch perſons as ſtand excommunicated, once in euery ſixe moneths denounced in your Church in time of diuine Seruice vpon ſome Sunday?

62 Hath any Excommunicated perſon not abſolued (at leaſt in his extremity) not giuing any teſtimony of his repentance before his depar-

ture, beene buried in Christian buriall, who buried him, her, or them: where and when, and who were present at such burials?

63 Doe any retaine or keepe in their house or seruice, any person denounced excommunicate, or doe any way encourage them therein, or conuerse with them in buying, selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise, keepe company with them in any sort.

Wills, Testaments, and Administrations.

64 Doe any in your Parish administer the goods of the dead, or any way intermeddle therewith, without lawfull authority committed vnto them vnder the Ordinaries seale.

65 Know you any in your Parish that suppresse the last will of the Dead, or any that forge or alter any Wills, or any Executors that fulfill not the testators Will: or any that detaine Legacies giuen to any charitable vses?

Seuerall Articles.

66 Doe any in your Parish prophane the Sabbath-dayes: or not duly obserue the Holy-dayes appointed: Are Ember Fasts orderly obserued at the foure times of the yeare appointed?

67 Are the dayes and orders of Perambulation duly obserued in the Rogation weeke, if not, in whose default?

68 Are the Canons, Constitutions, and Orders made and agreed vpon in the Conuocation-house Anno Dom. 1603. read ouer once euery yeare in your Church vpon Sundayes or Holy-dayes, according to his Maiesties Commandement in that behalfe?

69 Doth your Minister yearely present, and giue vp in writing to the Ordinary, the names of all Recusants, and halfe Recusants men and women, as well sojourners as Parishioners, and common guests in your Parish, aboue the age of thirteene, according to the 114. Canon or not?

70 Doe any in your Parish take vpon them to practise Physicke or Chirurgery, not being lawfully licenced?

71 Are any in your Parish (or which were of your parish, and are now departed) knowne, suspected, famed, or reported to haue offended in Fornication, Adultery, Incest, Witchcraft, Sorcery, Charming, Vsury, Swearing, drunkennesse, common slandering, sowing of discord, brawling, scolding, or any other vncleannesse of life or bad manners?

72 Are any Housholders in your Parish (in whose house there is any one that can reade) which haue not the booke intituled, God and the King, and who be they which want the same?

73. Haue any Apparitors, or others, taken any reward to compound

or conceals any offence presentable, or punishable in the Ecclesiasticall Court, if so, let the same be presented.

74 You shall further present whether any in your Parish upon Sundaies or Holy-daies, doe vse any dancing, plaies, or other sports or pastimes whatsoeuer, before all Seruice on those daies be fully ended: And are the same vsed by any of another parish, or any which haue not the same day beene at diuine prayers in their owne parish Church, who be they which haue offended in any of the premisses?

Church-wardens and Sidemen.

75 Are your Church wardens and Side-men chosen yearely in the Easter weeke, according to the Canons: And doe the Church-wardens yearely, truly make and deliuer vp in writing, their account of all their receits and disbursements whatsoeuer, by them receiued and laid out for the parish, and of all the Church goods, Bookes, and other things as the Canons require?

76 Doe your Church-wardens themselues come duly to the Church to diuine Prayers and Sermons, & doe they their best endeuours especially vpon Sundayes and Holy-dayes to cause all parishioners to doe the like?

77 Whether is there a transcript or copy of the Register books of the Church, of christnings, weddings, and burials, yearly exhibited and deliuered vp into the Registry of the Ordinary or not?

78 Whether is there a sufficient terrier of the glebe land and other rites belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, truly taken and exhibited into the Registers office, as by the law it ought.

79 Haue the late Church-wardens concealed any crime, offance, or disorder in their times, and not presented the same: what be the matters so concealed? or doth any trouble, molest her, or abuse, in words or otherwise the Ministers, Church-wardens, or Sidemen for doing their office according to their Oath and duty: and who be they that so doe? And haue your Church-wardens continued in that office aboue one yeare, without a new Election?

Articles concerning the order and iniunctions lately enioyned by his Maiestie.

81 Haue you any Lecturer or preaching Minister in your Parish, doth he preach in the afternoone on Sabboth dayes, and doth he then vse a Catechisticall forme by Question and answer?

82 Whether doth your Lecturer or preaching Minister in your Parish before his Sermon reade diuine prayers in a Surplice, and if he be a Graduate in a Hood answerable to his Degree, and doth he preach in a Gowne, and not in a Cloake.

83 Haue

83 Haue you any in your parish either Merchants or others, which refuse or doe not come to Diuine seruice, Lectures, Sermons, and Catechising in your Church, or doe negligently absent themselues and not frequent the same, or any of them, present the names, and true additions of euery offender herein.

84 Whether is there any in your parish, which keepeth any priuate Chaplaine in his house, and who by name?

85 Haue you diligently and carefully perused, read, or heard others reade and peruse this booke of Articles, and euery particular Article and branch thereof, and haue you framed your answers or Presentments to the same accordingly?

86 Generally, whether doe you know any of the Canons broken, or any other Ecclesiasticall matter worthy to be presented, or not: and if you doe, you shall truly present the same (by the Oath you haue taken) as well now as hereafter, when it shall come to your knowledge.

FINIS.